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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, DECEMBER 29, 1999

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUC990207

Ex Parte: In re: Petition for  
Approval of NPA Relief Plan  
for the 540 area code

ORDER ASSIGNING HEARING EXAMINER

On November 2, 1999, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, Lockheed Martin IMS ("NANPA"), in its role as the neutral third-party Numbering Plan Area ("NPA") Relief Planner for Virginia, and acting on behalf of the Virginia telecommunications industry ("Industry"), filed a Petition on behalf of NANPA and the Industry requesting that the Commission order a plan of relief for the 540 NPA before the end of the first quarter of 2000.

According to the Petition, the Industry examined the status of the 540 NPA at a meeting convened by NANPA on September 23, 1999. The Industry estimated that because of a recent unexpected increase in demand for central office codes, the 540 NPA could be exhausted by as early as the third quarter of 2001, two quarters earlier than the 1999 Central Office Code Utilization Survey ("COCUS") projections.

At the September 23, 1999, meeting, the Industry discussed four relief alternatives: an all services distributed overlay and three versions of a two-way geographic split. The Industry was unable to reach agreement, and decided by consensus to request that the Commission decide the appropriate form of relief for the 540 NPA.

On December 7, 1999, NeuStar Inc. ("NeuStar") provided formal notice to the Commission Staff that on November 17, 1999, the Federal Communications Commission had approved the transfer of Lockheed Martin IMS's Communications Industry Services group to NeuStar; the transaction was finalized on December 1, 1999. NeuStar additionally indicated that it would continue to provide neutral third-party clearinghouse services for the telecommunications industry, previously handled by Lockheed Martin IMS.

The Commission is of the opinion that public comments should be invited about the appropriate area code relief for the 540 NPA, and that public hearing(s) should be scheduled in the affected area(s) to receive public comments. A Hearing Examiner will be assigned to accomplish this and to conduct all further proceedings in this matter.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) This matter is docketed and assigned Case No. PUC990207.

(2) Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 7:1 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a Hearing Examiner is hereby assigned to conduct all further proceedings in this matter.

(3) The Examiner shall direct that the hearing(s) be scheduled at an appropriate place and time within the area served by the 540 area code to receive public comments about the best method for implementing a new code.

(4) The Examiner shall direct the Commission's Division of Communications to publish a newspaper notice about the time and place of the public hearing(s) and the address and docket number to which written comments may be sent.

(5) The Commission's Division of Communications, in consultation with NANPA, shall assist the Examiner with arrangements and scheduling of the time and place for the public hearing(s).